

CURRENT TOPICS

A BOSTON physician has created something of a stir among his professional brethren by the following statement: "An operation for appendicitis should be called a criminal operation and as such should be prohibited by law. I have been following the records of appendicitis operations ever since the craze for this form of surgery started, and I confidently believe that the day is coming when the people will realize that the cutting of the appendix is a criminal operation. After the widely proclaimed benefits and saving of life by operations to cut the appendix, it seems hardly necessary to cite the long list of deaths following the operation."

ON JUNE 17 last Charles W. Morse, one time known as the "Ice King," was released from the New York prison under \$125,000 bail. His release was pending an appeal of his case to the United States court of appeals. Morse had been convicted of violating the national banking law, in misapplying funds of the National Bank of North America of which he was president. He was sentenced to fifteen years of hard labor in the federal prison at Atlanta, Ga. After his release on bail he took up his business and it is claimed that during the four following months he paid off five million dollars of his seven million dollars indebtedness and regained control of a large part of his extensive steamship interests. On October 11 the United States court of appeals affirmed Morse's sentence and he was returned to prison. His attorneys have applied to the United States supreme court in hope of relief.

SPAIN HAS JUST made a mistake common to monarchies. It has caused to be put to death the leader of a revolution under the impression that the leader's blood would satisfy the political demands of his faithful followers. The victim was Professor Francisco Ferrer, the Spanish educator, who was convicted of being a revolutionist. An Associated Press dispatch from Barcelona says: "Ferrer, except for a momentary expression of emotion immediately preceding his death, retained his composure to the last. His attorney, M. Galceran, who had defended the prisoner so loyally as to bring about his own arrest for improperly addressing the court, had obtained permission for a brief talk with the revolutionist before the latter was led to the ditch where he was to die. To his attorney Ferrer spoke feelingly of the work for which he had sacrificed his life, and of the future of his daughter, whose brave attempt to save his life touched the father more deeply, apparently, than any other incident of his trial and conviction. On Ferrer's arrest his family was left dependent upon this daughter, who at once found employment in a biscuit factory. When it was known that her father had been sentenced to death the daughter made a personal appeal to King Alfonso, calling upon him in the name of his known generosity and chivalry to spare her father's life. When these facts were related by Galceran, Ferrer broke down. It was but a passing emotion and presently the undaunted revolutionist was again himself. Ferrer declined to receive the last sacraments and turned away from the two priests of the Order of Peace and Charity who had been sent by the prison authorities to offer him the final consolation of the church."

DESCRIBING THE execution this dispatch adds: "When the hour of his execution arrived Professor Ferrer walked bravely through the prison yard to the ditch in the shadow of the encircling wall. Without a quiver he faced the twelve infantrymen who, at the word of command, fired simultaneously. When the report of the volley had died away Ferrer lay dead upon the ground. Previous to the execution precautions had been taken to forestall a possible attempt at rescue by doubling the sentinels upon the walls of the fortress. With the execution of Francisco Ferrer, the authorities have removed from the affairs of Spain one long suspected of revolutionary activities and who, because of his education and influence, was deemed

of peculiar danger to the state. The decree of the court martial was carried out in the face of protests from sympathizers, not only in Spain but in parts of France, and in Paris and Rome these protests were voiced in mass meetings by workmen of socialist tendencies. In these capitals attacks were attempted upon the Spanish embassy which, however, were protected by police and soldiery. Many petitions for clemency were addressed to King Alfonso, who also was threatened with death should he not spare Ferrer's life. Ferrer was formerly a director of the Modern School of Barcelona and was repeatedly accused of teaching revolutionary doctrines. In 1906 he was arrested, charged with complicity in the attempt upon the life of King Alfonso on the day of the royal marriage. On trial he was acquitted. On September 1 last, he was arrested, charged with having incited the rioting in Barcelona last summer. This outbreak was in the nature of a protest against the sending of Spanish troops against the Moors on the Riff coast. At this trial documents were submitted alleged to have related to the proclamation of a Spanish republic"

GENERAL CRITICISM throughout the world was marked as the result of the Ferrer execution. In Paris 10,000 men headed by M. Juarez, the leader of the socialists in the chamber of deputies, marched to the Spanish embassy where it was the intention to hold a meeting of protest. The police surrounded the building and drove the crowd away. Later great damage was done to trees, lamp posts and other material. Two policemen were shot, one dying at the hospital. A Paris cablegram carried by the Associated Press says: "Interviews printed show that many persons prominent in the scientific and political world are both indignant and pained at the day's events in Spain. A member of the institute said he was stupefied at the action, which he characterized as political cannibalism. M. Reinach said he had thought it incredible that the king would decline to intervene. He added: 'Ferrer was the victim of the monks, who are all powerful in Spain, now that they have been reinforced by their colleagues who were expelled from France. It was impossible to believe that Spain would dare to thus defy the universal conscience.' M. Picavet, secretary of the College of France, who said he had read all of Ferrer's books, declares the 'Modern School,' which the author advocated simply favored a neutral instruction as the terms was understood in France. The Paris papers today devote pages to the case. Even those sheets which are most moderate in tone, expressed the hope that King Alfonso would intervene to prevent the consummation of 'the political assassination,' of 'a revolutionary idealist.' M. Juarez, the deputy who yesterday addressed a mass meeting of protest, had an interview in a morning paper in which he predicted that if Ferrer was shot a conflagration would be started which would not be extinguished until 'Spanish political life had been purged of the clerical influences which are paralyzing the progress of the nation and shocking the conscience of Europe.' Ferrer's daughter is today prostrated by the news of his death. M. Jaures, the leader of the socialists in the chamber of deputies, has issued a call for a meeting of protest against the execution of Ferrer, the meeting to be held in front of the Spanish embassy here tonight. In a letter written to the Siecle by Ferrer October 7, the Spanish revolutionists say that the evidence against him at the courtmartial consisted of depositions made by 3,000 persons confined in the prisons in Catalonia and the hearsay testimony of others. There was not a witness who gave a scintilla of direct evidence against him, in connection with the insurrection."

IN ROME THE execution of Ferrer created a profound impression. An Associated Press cablegram from Rome says: "There was a second demonstration of protests against the action of the Spanish government. There were cries of 'Long live Ferrer.' 'Down with reactionism.' 'Down with the Jesuits.' 'Down with Merry

Del Val.' The police and troops succeeded in maintaining comparative order and prevented the march of the demonstrators to the square where the Spanish embassy stands. It is reported that a few days ago Ferrer's daughter telegraphed to the pope from Paris asking his intervention to save her father's life. The pontiff was deeply moved and exclaimed: 'Poor child, if I could succeed in softening the grief of her afflicted soul, it would be a great consolation for me.' The Spanish ambassador to the Holy See, in an interview tonight, said that neither he nor his colleague accredited to the quirinal had ever been informed of any request for a pardon for Ferrer. He added that the pope may have asked for a pardon independently of him. It is believed here that the execution of Ferrer was hastened by the fear that the pope would intervene. According to those who support this theory, the Spanish authorities wished to prevent their sovereign being placed in a position where he might have to grant or refuse a special request for pardon. What attitude the vatican assumed toward the Ferrer case can not be learned. The officials will neither deny nor confirm that any step looking to a pardon for the revolutionist was taken, but it is understood that if any thing was done the negotiations were carried on directly between the pope and King Alfonso. The one phase of the affair that the vatican emphatically denies is the assertion that the Spanish ambassador here took any action to prevent the intervention of the pope to procure a pardon." In London the press generally condemns the execution, fears being expressed that the affair will lead to grave internal troubles for Spain.

THE NEW YORK municipal campaign is getting hotter as the days go by. Judge Gaynor, the democratic nominee, has resigned from the bench. Mr. Hearst, who is an independent candidate, has taken the stump and has made a bitter attack upon Judge Gaynor. William M. Ivans, who four years ago was the republican nominee for mayor against Hearst, is also making speeches in favor of Hearst and against Gaynor. Replying to Hearst's bitter attack, Judge Gaynor charges that Hearst promised to support him for mayor, saying: "I don't care what ticket you run on I'll support you." Hearst denies this. There is a bitter fight on against Tammany and while some believe that Hearst will only aid the republican candidate there are others who think Le may be elected.

STATE SENATOR Patrick H. McCarren, the democratic leader of Brooklyn, was stricken with appendicitis and required to undergo an operation, thus removing him from the contest. Some idea of the fight that is going on is conveyed in an Associated Press dispatch of October 14 as follows: "Two unusual incidents disturbed both the Hearst and the Gaynor meetings. At the former Deford began a denunciation of State Senator Patrick H. McCarren, who is critically ill, when a voice from the audience interrupted dramatically with the exclamation: 'McCarren is dead.' An immediate hush fell over the assemblage, and Deford apologized to his hearers, with the explanation that he was attacking McCarren's principles and not McCarren the man. The audience, although hostile to the Brooklyn leader, cheered these sentiments wildly. Charles S. Whitman, the republican nominee for district attorney, who also spoke at the Hearst rally, paid an eloquent tribute to McCarren when he said that McCarren was a gallant fighter, who scorns underhand methods, but who unfortunately was on the wrong side. It was a militant suffragette who disturbed the Gaynor gathering. Gaynor had barely got under way with his address when a woman rose in the audience and called, 'How about woman suffrage?' She was Miss Maude Malone, a familiar figure at political gatherings. 'The question which you ask me is not pertinent to this meeting,' said Gaynor, after some embarrassment, 'and I shall ask you in order to prevent any further interruption to go first and consult my wife.' Still Miss Malone refused to be seated, and after a consultation with Herman Ridder,